our fourfooted friends

FALL
1983

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE
OF BOSTON

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

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COVER PHOTO: Frederick and Daniel McCarthy meet a new friend at the Animal Friends Summer School (see story on page 10).

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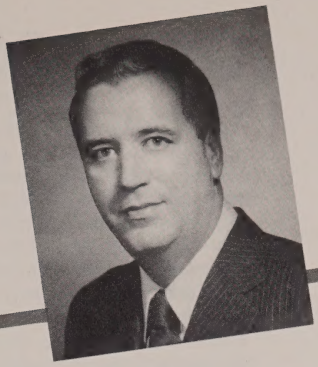
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...



BUILDING HUMANE FOUNDATIONS

Humane Societies, like the League, have many activities which make up their total animal welfare programs. In various ways, we all strive to relieve abuse and suffering, treat the sick and injured, find good homes for unwanted pets, foster laws to protect animals, control pet populations, preserve wildlife, and develop humane standards of care for livestock and other animals used by man. Some of these approaches are corrective and some are preventive and all are necessary in today's world, but the one most fundamental thread running through all of our activities is the basic need for education and humane education in particular. It has the greatest and most lasting impact for creating the social climate to bring about meaningful solutions to the animal welfare problems we face on a daily basis.

Anyone who has studied the most elementary aspects of the learning abilities of children knows that the values and ideals that are learned in the very early years are the ones which stay with them throughout their adult years. It is for this reason that we at the League seek so earnestly to build the very best foundations we can for the young people we teach in our humane education programs.

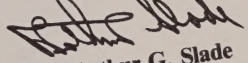
These activities take a number of approaches, but they are all designed for one ultimate objective: to generate humane and caring ideals. This issue contains articles about our 1983 Animal Friends Summer School and the Pet Show which took place as a part of it. These are annual events which we feel are particularly suited for our goals. I hope you will consider these articles in this light and realize the values they produce.

At the Pet Show, for example, the Judges are looking not for a prize animal, but for the bond that exists between the young person and their pet. How much they know about their pet's care and needs and how closely they are involved in providing these needs are the important points. Determining the quality of their care and the degree of love of their pet makes decisions difficult for the judges. To encourage this idea, we give a first and second prize ribbons in each class and a third prize ribbon to the other contestants so that each child feels a sense of some success.

We have a very special prize for the children to strive for in each of the sessions of our Summer School. This is the Walter J. Dethloff Award which is given "to the child, who in the opinion of the teachers, best exemplifies those qualities of sincerity, helpfulness, consideration and interest in and devotion to animals."

We are equally interested in the excellence of the instructors at Summer School and for this reason we are deeply grateful for the Florence E. Buttrick Memorial Award which was created by Dr. Carlton E. Buttrick, the League's former President, following Mrs. Buttrick's death in 1980. It is given by the Camp Directors to the Counselor who best demonstrates the qualities "for enriching the resources of the human mind...and by exemplifying the ability to foster in children, both by personal example and creative teaching, the spirit of humanitarian idealism." The award was given this year to Elizabeth van Schilfgaarde of Holland.

Along with these special projects we continue our programs throughout the school year in public and private schools to bring the message to thousands of young people that "kindness uplifts the world."



Arthur G. Slade
President

CAPE COD BRANCH . . .
Caring for Four-Footed Visitors

Sand dunes, salt sea air, cozy harbors and miles of picturesque beaches draw crowds of visitors and vacationers each summer to Cape Cod. This annual population explosion includes many four-footed visitors who accompany their owners, making the period from Memorial Day through Labor Day a time of peak activity for the staff of the League's Cape Cod Branch on Route 6A in East Brewster.

Unfamiliar with their new surroundings and often supervised less strictly during vacation, pets tend to wander off. The problem of lost dogs and cats, with owners frequently on holiday from other parts of the state or even other parts of the country, is a common summer occurrence on the Cape, but not necessarily a tragic one, thanks to League efforts. "Our success rate in finding the owners of lost dogs is well above 95%, and most dogs are claimed within the first few days," according to shelter manager Thomas White. Lost cats are also held at the shelter, although there is no legal holding requirement protecting cats. Last year 368 lost dogs and 21 lost cats were returned to their owners, and new homes were found for a total of 434 stray or abandoned animals.

Appointed manager of the Brewster shelter last April, Thom White formerly served with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, first as manager of their Springfield shelter, later as a consultant in

Lynda Brogden sends kitten to his new home with W.T. Ohman of Harwich.

Nassau and the Bahamas, and most recently as manager of the M.S.P.C.A.'s Boston shelter. He also had previous experience with the New Hampshire Humane Society as a law enforcement agent and shelter manager.

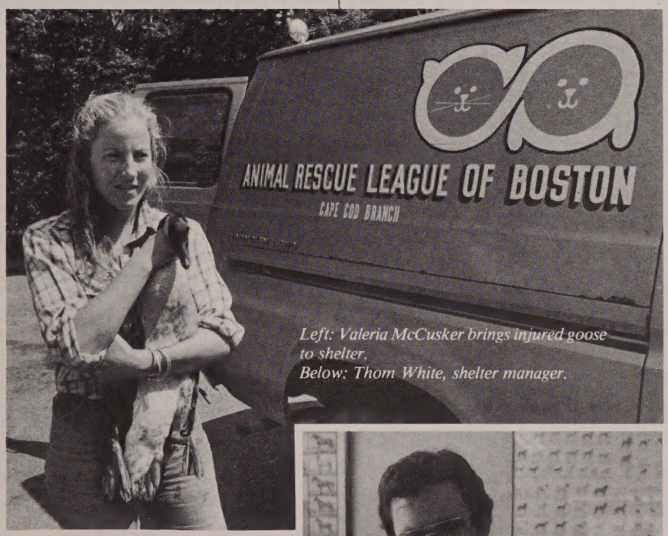
Located on a wooded 8-acre plot, the Cape Cod shelter has large dog kennels and spacious pens for kittens and cats, or other small animals, all with outdoor runs. All stray animals and those that are given up for adoption receive a physical examination, vaccinations and worming medication, as well as a behavioral examination, before being offered for adoption. "Dr. Schneider, a veterinarian in Eastham, checks all of the animals at least once a week, and the Pleasant Bay Animal Hospital in Harwich is on call for emergencies twenty-four hours a day," Thom explains.

The shelter is the official animal control agency for Brewster and Chatham, and also is the animal pound for Dennis and Harwich as well. One ambulance is out on the roads on patrol for strays twenty hours a week in Brewster, and another twenty in Chatham. Meanwhile, a second ambulance is available at the shelter to respond to emergency and animal rescue calls, twenty-four hours a day, from Hyannis all the way to Provincetown.

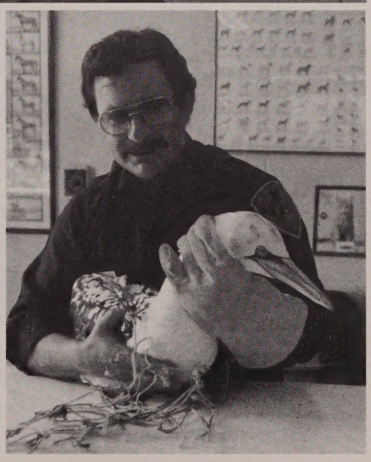
Helping Thom White supervise these wide-ranging activities is assistant Lynda Brogden, along with her 9-year old black Labrador, "Melanie." Lynda was formerly assistant manager at the League's North Shore Branch in Salem, and served previously with the Bahamas Humane Society in Nassau as assistant to the veterinarian. Valeria McCusker, also assistant to the manager, is the third full-time staff member, with additional part-time help as needed during the busy summer months.

The Cape's harbors, inlets and marshes are home to a wide variety of wildlife and waterfowl, and the domestic pets temporarily residing at the Cape Cod shelter frequently have the company of some exotic feathered friends. Recent guests included a gannett, a great horned owl, and a goose found with a broken wing on a pond in Harwich. The shelter also experienced a rise in the number of calls dealing with raccoons this year (see story on page 6.) Although it was unoccupied this past summer, a roomy barn with adjacent corral on the property provides facilities for temporarily housing horses, donkeys, goats or other farm animals in need of shelter or care.

Supplementing and complementing the Cape Cod Branch's animal welfare activities are a wide range of humane education and community outreach programs. School groups, cub scouts and other youth organizations are regular visitors to the shelter, and Thom conducts a number of area pet shows for town recreation departments, in addition to assisting with the Animal Friends Summer School's annual Pet Show in Cataumet. A highly successful pet therapy program at a nursing home in Provincetown is being expanded to include a second nursing home this Fall. The shelter is also offering dog obedience training programs every Thursday evening, as part of its ongoing efforts to foster responsible pet ownership.



Left: Valeria McCusker brings injured goose to shelter.
Below: Thom White, shelter manager.



Masked Bandits
in Suburbs and Cities

Crowded out of its natural woodland habitat by encroaching civilization, the highly adaptable and intelligent raccoon is increasingly at home in suburban and even urban settings.

Although they prefer to make their homes, or "dens," in hollow trees, the increased scarcity of trees due to land development is forcing more and more of the mischievous, masked, ring-tailed creatures to

move into ground holes, cavities in stone walls, and chimneys and attics in occupied homes.

The League has received more calls from people disturbed by rac-

coons this year than ever before, according to Peter Faux, supervisor of the League's rescue program. Last year's mild winter with abundant food and, consequently, lower mortality rate increased raccon visibility in cities. "Between March and July this past year, we sometimes received as many as ten calls a day, from such towns as Brookline, Weston, Belmont, Melrose and parts of Boston, including Roslindale and Hyde Park." Even more raccoon cases were handled at the League's Cape Cod Branch, where summer cottages, vacant in the Spring, made attractive raccoon residences. Open spaces such as parks and recreational areas in cities also tend to attract raccoons.

A nocturnal animal, the raccoon does not hibernate, but tends to be less active from November to March. The young are usually born in the early Spring, with a single litter ranging from three to seven babies, with four babies being about the average. They eat solid food at about nine weeks, and are usually totally weaned by 16 weeks.

"When we receive a call from people asking us to remove nesting raccoons from their chimney or inside the eaves of the attic, we ask them, if at all possible, to wait until the babies are at least eight or nine weeks old, at which time the raccoon family is likely to move out of its own accord. Otherwise, we risk separating the mother from the babies, and Massachusetts law does not allow the League to care for the babies until they can be turned loose," Faux points out. Since the mother goes in and out for food, it is sometimes possible to catch the mother in a humane cage trap and then remove the babies and turn the whole family loose together in the woods.

League agents Dave Hoffman and Michael Gilboy rescued a stranded raccoon from a second-story window ledge of a downtown Boston building this year, and Peter Faux climbed up a telephone pole to rescue an adult raccoon which jumped on his head (adults can weigh as much as 25 pounds!). When a Brookline family boarded up a hole in the eaves of their house, the mother raccoon stranded outside with her family inside ripped off not only the boards, but the siding as well.

As cunning as they are cute, raccoons are notorious garbage can raiders and are extremely clever when it comes to finding food. Their diet includes frogs, earthworms, grasshoppers, squirrels, and human leftovers such as apples, corn cobs, berries, and other fruits and vegetables. When it comes to eating, they have very good memories. "We try to discourage people from feeding them. They get friendly with the raccoons, but then when too many of them begin turning up at their back door for food, they call the League for help," Faux says. Because they are wild, untamed and unpredictable, raccoons should never be encouraged to congregate around homes and children.

The best way to discourage raccoons from nesting in a house is to prevent their entry by covering up chimney openings and other holes with a grill or fine screening, which will also keep out birds and squirrels.

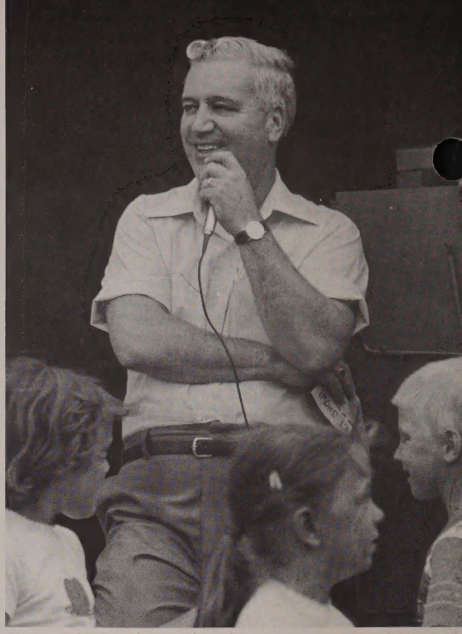
The League urges people not to try to smoke them out of chimneys, since they will usually just panic and stay put, risking injury and death. It is against the law to kill or poison raccoons, and it is also illegal to remove the young and try to raise baby wildlife in a home.

Although there have been reports of rabies this year among raccoons in the mid-Atlantic states, there have been no problems in New England. "But we do urge people not to go near raccoons, particularly in a way that might appear threatening to their young," Faux notes.

Agent Robert Walsh and humane officer Richard Bryant remove raccoon family from chimney of summer home in Eastham. The mother is removed from the top of the chimney with the aid of a long "catch" pole, and the babies are removed through the fireplace. The nest is usually located on the damper just above the fireplace opening. The family was released in a remote location about a mile away. The homeowner screened the top of the chimney to prevent re-entry of wildlife.

PET SHOW '83

Karen Glasheen's "Queenie" won Best of Show — eat your heart out, Morris!



From the smile on his face, you can see that The Pres. Arthur Slade is enjoying his chore

There's no need to hide your head, you did great

The parade of participants led by the camp musicians

"I said SIT and I meant it."

Richard Bryant, who put it all together, briefed the judges on their job for the day

Go easy pal I am a little ticklish

"Phew," I lean back and sigh. After a few days at the Animal Friends Summer School (Camp) I am exhausted. Not only are the campers busy with their crowded schedule, but the counselors are busy, too. Stephen Wachman, the assistant director, chuckles "...that out in the real world you work. This job is like a smile."

We do indeed smile, along with our many other activities and tasks. It all starts early in the morning when the 125 or so campers arrive for daily flag raising and singing camp songs, which were enlivened this year by Penny Knight's guitar accompaniment. Many of the songs we sing were brought to us by former staffers from previous summers and carry memories for the older counselors and campers.

After singing our songs, all of us are ready to join in an activity that involves running around and playing games such as "Mother May I?" or "Steal the Bacon", traditional camp favorites.

A Job Like a Smile

Animal Friends Summer School

by Elizabeth van Schilfgaarde

Our class schedule has both animal and craft choices for the campers. We offer programs on Farm Animals, Horses, Pet Care, Wildlife, Ocean Ecology, Wildlife, and Dog Obedience. These week-long courses allow the campers to learn more about animals and nature. They get to hold or work with the animals and learn how to properly care for them. I remember from my time as a camper, that after taking Becky Bryant's Pet Care class, my pet rabbit was allowed to stay in our house. That rabbit was the first in a long line of my pets!

A variety of crafts classes like candlemaking, puppetry, macrame, woodworking, photography, and drama are also offered during the summer. The craft class projects came out well enough this summer to win some prizes at the Barnstable County Fair.

I teach the drama class, which this year put on several plays, including two mini-musicals, that

(Cont'd on page 12)

Counselors and directors gather at the close of another memorable summer.

were aided by Penny's guitar. It is an extraordinary accomplishment for the campers and myself to put a show together in the five (all-too-short) hours we have each week.

Group Adventures is another class that is very popular. Here, the kids learn to work together as a group and to trust one another. They have a lot of fun climbing walls, doing trust falls, playing non-competitive games and learning group dynamics.

Our "milk and sports break" arrives later in the morning. After this short "respite" it is time to sit down and enjoy one of our many truly "Special Events." Each day we have different guests visit us to talk about their jobs, hobbies, or special interests.

This summer we saw Ellen Terryberry from Red Acre Farm, Harriet Rossen from the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, a Coast Guard Helicopter, the Bourne Fire Department, the Falmouth Police Department's K-9 Team, the American Red Cross Safety Specialist, two veterinarians, a sheep shearer, a farrier, and many other spectacular presentations from our own staff as well. Our guest speakers bring hands-on items for all of us to see and touch and the kids love the show, while they learn about different interests or occupations. The guests enjoy themselves, too, as they see the excitement on the children's faces, knowing that it is a worthwhile experience for all.

After lunch, another group of more than 100 older children arrive to take part in the same schedule of activities, classes and special events.

Parents' Day on July 23rd was a great success, as was our 34th Annual Pet Show on July 30th, in which pet owners between the ages of 6-14 enter their pets to parade and compete for prizes in eight different categories. Everyone is a winner at this very special day! One disappointment this year was the cancellation, due to rain, of our second Parents' Day. the campers as well as the staff always enjoy these days because we can show the families all the work and fun we've had during the summer.

Looking back over the summer now, I smile, as I did then, remembering a rare job that was both worthwhile and fun!

Ms. van Schilfgaarde is a resident of Holland who has spent several summers at the Cape as both a camper and a counselor.

newsfront

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

DOG DAYS IN FALMOUTH

The Falmouth Police Department's K-9 Corps made a guest appearance at the League's Animal Friends Summer School in Cataumet, demonstrating canine techniques for crowd control. Officers Steve O'Neil and Chuck Gonsalves also demonstrated how their four-footed partners assist in apprehending a criminal. The delighted audience included youngsters ranging in age from 6 up to 15 years.

WSPA BENEFIT FOR WORLD ANIMAL PROTECTION

A benefit dinner and premiere screening of "The Golden Seal" is being held October 5 at the Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston to aid the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA). Filmed in the Aleutian Islands, the movie portrays an extraordinary friendship between a boy and a seal. The League is a member of WSPA, which is a non-profit organization assisting both wild and domestic animals in over 60 countries. The money raised from this benefit will in part aid the first World Congress on Animal Protection, which will be held in Boston in Spring, 1984.

NEW BOOKS

Pet Love: How Pets Take Care of Us, by Betty White. William Morrow & Co., Inc. Actress Betty White, president of the Morris Animal Foundation, explores how much animals help humans, with moving case studies of how pets are used to aid the handicapped, the hospitalized, prisoners, and the mentally ill. $12.95.

Pets Without Homes, by Caroline Arnold with photos by Richard Hewett. Clarion Books, Houghton Mufflin Company. A moving look at animal shelters and the people who work to find homes for animals. Written for preschoolers through grade 3. $10.95.

(Cont'd on next page)

CURRENT MOVIES

The American Humane Association has established the following motion picture classification standards to provide a reliable and serviceable film guide for parents and others interested in assessing the impact of a given movie:

Acceptable: American Humane was on location to monitor animal action and to ensure humane treatment. Scenes appearing to endanger animals are simulated.

Believed Acceptable: The Association was not on location to monitor animal action, but after screening or script review, American Humane representatives concluded the film producer complied with Association standards and intentions.

Questionable: American Humane personnel not on the scene. Animal action and treatment is in doubt.

Unacceptable: Outright cruelty to animals during production.

Acceptable

Cujo, a Blatt/Singer Production for Sunn Classics Pictures
Never Cry Wolf, a Walt Disney Production for Buena Vista
Nightmare, Universal Pictures, Inc.
The Golden Seal, a Samuel Goldwyn, Jr. Production, Goldfarb Distribution

Believed Acceptable

Alisino and the Condor, Almi Distribution
Harry Tracey, a Ronald Cohen Film Co. production, Quartet Films Inc.
Jaws 3-D, an Alan Landsburg Production for Universal Pictures
Kidco, a Frank Yablans Production for Twentieth Century Fox
Rottweiler, an Earl Owensby Production, Goldfarb Distribution

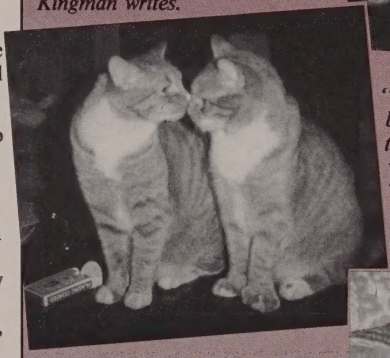
Unacceptable

Suburbia - You Wouldn't Want to Live There, a Roger Corman, Bert Dragin Production, New World Pictures

PETS IN THE PICTURE

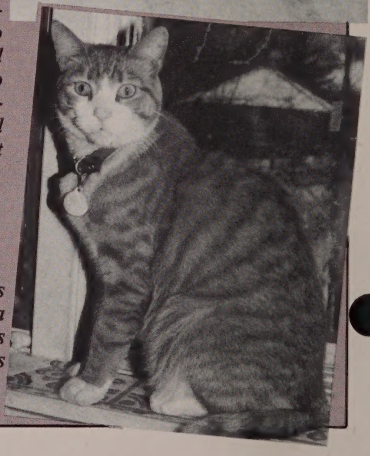
"Scamp," adopted from the League a year ago last summer, is obviously thriving in a good home. "She is so big I have a hard time picking her up," writes owner V.C. Woodhouse. "I wish all of them had good homes," the writer concludes.

Peter Kingman of Brighton adopted "Phoenix" from the Boston shelter when the dog was six weeks old. "We've become the best of pals. Weeknights, he helps me run a computer...weekends, we've been exploring forests, beaches and cranberry bogs. Thanks for having him for me," Kingman writes.



"Starsky" and "Hutch" are brothers who were adopted by the Turner family of Wollaston when they were kittens. "Growing up fast, they are two loving and affectionate pets," according to Bud Turner.

Catherine Nason of Rockport adopted "Cassie" from the League in 1976. "Since then she has taken on many responsibilities. She reminds me to turn the light off over the terrarium, to clean her kitty litter immediately after use, and to turn on the electric blanket so it will be warm should she want to go to bed before I do," Ms. Nason reports. "Cassie" has also captured fourth prize in the Purina Cat Chow national photo contest.



Judith Hanlissalo sends along this photo of four-year old "Jamie," a League alumni described by his owner as "a delight to all of his family and friends."

Membership in the A.R.L. makes a nice gift for someone special!

For further information on Gift Membership in the Animal Rescue League of Boston, please contact:

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

P.O. BOX 265 BOSTON, MA 02117
TEL. 426-9170

if you're fond of animals...

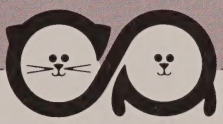
The League continues to rely on the generosity of its friends to meet the ever-expanding needs of our animal population. The cruel realism of inflation makes the League's task in providing needed services more difficult than ever, but with continued support, the challenge can and will be met.

In making a bequest to the League in your Will, please remember that the corporate title of our society is "Animal Rescue League of Boston", that it was incorporated in 1899, and has no connection with any other similar society.

Form of Bequest

I give to the Animal Rescue League of Boston the sum of _____ dollars.

The League's address is:
10 Chandler Street,
Boston, Massachusetts 02116.



MOVING?

Please let us know if you're planning to move so we can be sure that you receive **OUR FOURFOOTED FRIENDS** without interruption.

OLD ADDRESS:

Name .....
Street .....
City ..... State ..... Zip .....
(please print or attach mailing label)

NEW ADDRESS:

Name .....
Street .....
City ..... State ..... Zip .....

Moving? Please allow two months for us to correct our mailing list.

A full day of fun

to help our animal friends!

This is a real old fashioned Fair, with plenty of fun for everyone!

Things to buy —

- Gift tables overflowing with great ideas for all occasions (even presents for your pet!).
- Homemade cakes, pies, preserves and other mouth-watering goodies!
- An exciting selection of familiar and exotic cheeses!

Things to do —

- Guided tours of the league's animal shelter and veterinary clinic.
- Watch the Boston Police Dogs in action.
- View a fascinating demonstration by the Boston Police Horses.

PLUS — special auction of selected antiques at 12:00 noon!

- Your chance to pick up a real bargain!

Come to the Fair! October 27, 1983 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

League Headquarters, corner of Arlington and Tremont Streets, Boston

Contribute to the fun!

You can be a meaningful part of this wonderful day by sending a cash gift or a contribution of something we can sell. How about whipping up a favorite family recipe for a luscious pie or cake, bread, jam or pickles. Scour the house for forgotten treasures — antiques or just knickknacks. If you're talented, send us something you've made — a knitted scarf, a piece of embroidery or other handcraft. The fancy bed your cat's outgrown; a painting your spouse doesn't like; a lovely plate that doesn't match anything anymore.

Whatever it is, if you don't need it or want it — send it to us! Call 426-9170 for free pickup. Or mail or bring your articles to: Animal Rescue League of Boston, 10 Chandler Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.

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